



Department of
FAIR EMPLOYMENT
and **HOUSING**

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**NEW ONLINE APPOINTMENT SYSTEM ENABLES CALIFORNIANS TO LAUNCH
EMPLOYMENT- RELATED DISCRIMINATION OR HARASSMENT COMPLAINTS
ANY TIME, DAY OR NIGHT**

SACRAMENTO, CA – In keeping with Governor Schwarzenegger's commitment to making government more open and accessible to the public, the California Department of Fair Employment & Housing (DFEH) announced today that appointments to file a formal complaint of employment-related discrimination or harassment can now be made over the Internet, any time of the day.

"This new online appointment system is the latest step in Governor Schwarzenegger's monumental e-government project to make available for Californians as many state services as possible at times most convenient for them, as opposed to when it's most convenient for the state," said Rosario Marin, Secretary of California's State and Consumer Services Agency. "I'm proud that this new appointment system will help DFEH reach more people and encourage them to utilize this service."

The new online appointment system is available on the department's website at <http://www.dfeh.ca.gov>. Appointments can still be made via telephone during regular business hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by calling 800-884-1684 (within California) or 916-478-7200 (outside California). Hearing-impaired individuals may call TTY 800-700-7320.

"This new automated appointment system is now available to Californians at times that are convenient to them from any computer, anytime -- days, nights, weekends and holidays," said Acting DFEH Director Wanda J. Kirby. "That means Californians will no longer have to take time away from their jobs to telephone the department during regular business hours."

Previous to this new online appointments system, Californians wishing to file complaints with DFEH could only do so between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Scheduling an intake appointment is the first step in requesting DFEH to conduct a fact-finding investigation in order to determine whether there has been a violation of the laws that prohibit discrimination and harassment. The new automated system will ask the person a series of questions to help them determine whether the situation they are experiencing falls within the department's jurisdiction. If it does, the system will help them select a convenient appointment time for either a telephone interview or an in-person interview at the nearest DFEH office.

DFEH enforces the Fair Employment and Housing Act which prohibits discrimination and harassment in employment based on race; color; religion; sex (pregnancy or gender); sexual orientation; marital status; national origin (including language use restrictions); ancestry; disability (mental and physical, including HIV and AIDS); medical condition (cancer/genetic characteristics); age (40 and above); denial of family and medical care leave; and denial of pregnancy disability leave or reasonable accommodation.

For more information about the work of the DFEH or the laws it enforces, including the Fair Employment and Housing Act, Unruh Civil Rights Act, and Ralph Act, visit: www.dfeh.ca.gov.

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